

Acting Chief, Economic Research Area, OER

27 October 1959

Acting Chief, Industrial Division, OER

Evaluation of Soviet Statistical Data Presented to the I.L.O.

REF : 26 October Memo, Acting Chief, E to All Division Chiefs

1. The Soviet statistical data contained in the documents of the Textiles and Metal Trades Committees of the I.L.O. have been reviewed by the pertinent branches of the Industrial Division who comment as follows:

a. Textiles Committee:

The labor force and production figures on the textile industries of Poland, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria and the USSR are in general agreement with data given in the statistical yearbooks and other official sources of these countries, and are considered to be reliable.

b. Metal Trades Committee:

(1) The 1958 production figures for the USSR on page 13 agree with official Soviet sources, although some have been rounded.

(2) A 1958 figure for the "number of wage earners" in the metal trades is not available. The latest data give a figure of 4,539,000 for 1956. Both the 1956 figure and the 1958 figure of 4,935,000 provided to the I.L.O. for the "number of wage earners" (rabochie) apparently include only personnel directly employed in production in the metal trades industry and omit engineers, supervisors, service personnel, etc.

(3) The figure given in the 1958 Soviet handbook for workers and administrative personnel (rabochie i sluzhashchie) in industry in the USSR is 19,641,000. However, on the basis of the 4,935,000 wage earners in the metal trades in 1958, which is stated to be 16.9% of total industrial employment, it appears that industrial employment in 1958 amounted to about 29 million wage earners. In contrast, the 1958 handbook indicates that the number of wage earners and administrative personnel in industry totaled only 19,641,000.

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(4) On the other hand, if the employment figures in paragraph 2 refer only to production workers, there is an unaccounted residual of engineers, supervisory and service personnel.

2. The I.L.O. papers for the Textiles and Metal Trades Committees are returned herewith.

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Attachment

Distribution:

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